

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

For humidifying a work space in a gas-fed incubator, water in a  
heatable pan in the floor area of an inner container surrounding the work space  
5 is evaporated with temperature-controlled heating of the interior until a  
predetermined temperature is reached, whereby a dynamic equilibrium state  
between condensation and evaporation in the inner container is achieved as  
long as there are no disturbances. If a door for access to the inner container is  
opened, the open time until it is closed is detected and a period, during which  
10 the pan containing water is heated, is determined depending on the open time  
of the inner container. Here, the period features only a heating phase with a  
running time if the open time is within a predetermined time interval. The  
period further includes a secondary heating phase with a second running time  
if the open time exceeds the time interval. A gas-fed incubator operating  
15 according to the method has a work space in the inner container that can be  
closed by means of a door with temperature control of the interior, wherein in  
a floor area of the inner container there is a humidifier with at least one  
controllable heating element for an atmosphere of the inner container in the  
form of a pan holding a water bath. The door for closing the inner container  
20 has a door switch that is electrically connected to an input of a control unit for  
operation of the humidifier.